ALL ROADS LEAD TO AN INN, WHERE

THEY BROUGHT INTO BEING THE

Highlands Inn

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THE JUNE DAY WAS CRISP AND BRIGHT when J. Franklin Devendorf, an early pioneer, measured the imaginary outer walls of Highlands Inn. On this rugged-towering cliff of solid granite, he paced off the area of the main lodge. The year was 1916.

The site was unique, for it overlooked a miraculous mating of land and sea, cliffs and reefs, pines and mountains. It was surrounded by a botanists' paradise, faced by the breathless sunsets, and already destined to watch the playful Sea Otters and migrating Gray Whales. The area was also rich in history. Many buccaneers had sought refuge in the secret coves, and many had perished. Chinese coolies died in the nearby coal mines, and whaling shipmasters awaited their prey in the sheltered coves of Point Lobos.

Then the roads were unpaved and bumpy, and it took an entire day to travel by horse and buggy to or from Monterey. This was the time when famous pioneer settlers, such as Devendorf, and Frank Powers envisioned the future for the Monterey Peninsula. They were awed by this rugged coastline and the stands of cypress and pine. They believed the Highlands Inn would play an important part in the growth of the area.

Others shook their heads, doubting the success of an exclusive Inn, located away from the center of Peninsula activity. However, Frank Devendorf was not influenced, for he placed his faith in the prospect of a new paved highway from Monterey to San Luis Obispo, the course of which had already been mapped by Dr. John Roberts in 1897, and photographed with him by Frank Powers. Mr. Devendorf's dream of the Inn approached realization in 1915, when Dr. Roberts, with the use of Mr. Powers' slides, persuaded the California legislature to put a 1.5 million dollar bond issue to the people to finance the beginning of the road construction.

Originally, the Highlands Inn property was part of an old Mexican land grant, lying along the coast from the Carmel River (Rio Carmelo), just 3.3 miles north of the Inn to Palo Colorado Creek. It was named "San Jose y Sur Chiquito" by Marcelino Escobar in 1839, which meant "St. Joseph and Little South," and later became known as the "Little Sur." Located on it then was the "Las Virgenes" Adobe, near the Carmel River, which was so named because there the local Indians saw apparitions of the Virgin.

Newspaper documentaries indicate that about 1868, the William Waters family homesteaded the site of the Inn, and in 1890, the homestead was sold to Tom Work. In 1888 the courts finally patented the rancho

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to the successors of Jose Castro, who in 1853 had filed his claim to it. Gradually the rancho was parcelled and sold.

Mr. Devendorf's dream came to pass, when the doors of the Inn first opened in 1916. Upon completion, the Inn consisted of a huge lobby with magnificent stone fireplaces at the north and south ends, a dining room, a moderately sized kitchen, and cottage bungalows scattered over the hillside. Shortly afterwards, William Ritschel, the seascape artist, began construction of his stone castle, located south of and across the highway from the Inn. It became his famous studio-home until his death in 1947. It still stands as a citadel of the Carmel Highlands.

In 1922, the Inn and its acreage was sold to Senator and Mrs. Edward H. Tickle and Mrs. Tickle's sister, Miss Ella Shaw Fisher. The Tickle family operated the Inn from 1922 to 1946. During this period, internal roads were developed, and other improvements made. Eventually the famous Highlands Inn Lookout Point would become a public right-of-way maintained by the state.

Built in segments over a fifteen year period, largely by convict labor, the new Southcoast Highway was finally completed in 1937. A public dedication was held in June of that year to celebrate the highway's completion, which ushered in new development and a growing need to preserve our coastline.

Also during this period, the Monterey Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors instituted a ban against billboard blight. Retired Judge Anthony Brazil, then District Attorney, led this fight to protect the public against loss of the natural, virginal qualities of the land. Conservation remains the keynote of our ever vigilant populace.

Throughout the years, Highlands Inn has attained increasing recognition the world over. Reported by Mrs. Edward J. Smith, mother of Patricia Ramsey, a present owner of the Inn, was the unsolicited remark of a leading tour director to a group which included Mrs. Smith when visiting the Granja Azul Inn in Lima, Peru, that he knew of no lovelier place, except the Highlands Inn in Carmel, California. Many years ago, another remark was overheard by Miss Ella Shaw Fisher, a former owner, as she stood on the Amalfia Drive gazing at its coastline. The stranger said that he had seen nothing so beautiful in all the world, except for one place in America. When Miss Fisher asked the stranger, "Where in America?" he replied, "Way out West." How proud she was to confirm that the Highlands Inn was that unique place in the state named California.

Inspired by the sea breaking up against these precipitous cliffs, and by the grandeur and history of this coastal stretch, painters and artists, such as John O'Shea, William Clothier Watts, George Koch, Thomas Shrewsbury Parkhurst, J. Kellog and Theodore Criley,

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painted many of their celebrated oils in this area.

World-famous authors, Robert Louis Stevenson, whose Treasure Island was inspired at Point Lobos; Jack London, Harry Leon Wilson, Jimmy Hopper and Mary Austin also worked and relaxed at the Highlands Inn, or in the Carmel Highlands area. Many other noted literary personages were seen about the Inn, including poets Robinson Jeffers, George Sterling and Pulitzer Prize-winner, Martin Flavin.

After the highway was improved, the first automotive passenger stage travelled from Highlands Inn to Carmel to pick up mail, and go on to Monterey to meet guests arriving from the Bay Area on the Del Monte train. In 1929, the first rural postal route was established for the Carmel Highlands area.

The Inn continued to flourish, and in 1949, was purchased by Robert J. Ramsey, Bay area hotel owner. Mr. Ramsey's attraction to the Highlands was not surprising. His father was born in Scotland, and the Highlands coastline is so similar to the Highlands of Scotland. His maternal ancestors were early pioneers to the Monterey Peninsula. His great-grandfather, John D. Green, was one of the famous mountain men, who wintered with Captain Bonneville's party in Gilroy and Monterey in 1833. Thirteen years later, the family settled to ranch in King City, Monterey County, until John Green's death in 1869. Mr. Ramsey's grandmother, Lydia Green Casady was born near Moss Landing in 1851, and his mother, Nellie Casady Ramsey, was born at Monterey in 1876.

Today, the influence of Scottish heritage is seen through the Inn. Below the American flag flies the St. Andrew's flag. Cottages and other such units bear the names of famous clans, and framed in such units are the tartan and history of the clan. The Ramsey tartan carpeting appears in the main lobby, dining rooms, cocktail lounges, and Ritschel Room.

Since 1949, the Ramseys have guided a strenuous program to develop the Highlands Inn property. In 1950, the terraced swimming pool and recreation areas were constructed. The property on which the Wedding Chapel now stands was purchased in 1952, and the exciting Sunset Room was completed in the same year. The comfortable Fireside Room was in full use in 1954, and in 1955, the majestic Pacific Height Lanai building was completed. In 1956, a formalized Wedding Chapel was opened, and in the same year the Highlands Inn Gift Shop was completed. In 1962, the beautiful Point Lobos Rooms were opened, and one year later the Scott Lanai Building and expansive parking lots were available. In 1964 and 1965, two new Lanai suites, the front office, the new dining room en-

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trance, the foyer and attendant additions were constructed and in use.

On May 16, 1966, the first footing of a new construction program was appropriately christened by Mrs. Robert J. Ramsey. About this time, the South Coast Highway was dedicated as California's first official scenic highway. Upon completion of the Inn's new building expansion in 1967, guests enjoy six additional buildings, housing thirty lanai-view suites — and enlarged Sunset Lounge with its magnificent western addition — the Ritschel Room for top level conferences and receptions and the Lauder Room, a piano bar lounge.

Completion of a well-designed botanical paradise about the Inn features over 1,000 different kinds of flowers and plants from all parts of the world, a fulfillment of Robert J. Ramsey's dream to create one of America's most beautiful gardens.

In the spring of 1968, the construction of the new entrance road for Highlands Drive was completed. Representing a splendid contribution to the Carmel Highlands, the Highlands Inn officially dedicated this new county right-of-way to Monterey County, upon completion of the beautiful granite-rock monolith holding the metal sculpture of the Highland Piper, which now faces the entrance. Long in use, the insignia of the Highland Piper is now firmly established as the traditional landmark of the Highlands Inn. In 1975, the outdoor Wedding Gazebo opened; in 1976 the new Owlery Bar was added to the Sunset Lounge, and the one acre, three-tiered parking facilities opened directly across from the Wedding Chapel. In 1977 the glass-enclosed Ramsey Terrace Room opened for dining to add still another panoramic view. In 1979 the three-tiered acre parking facility was purchased, and the new Ramsey and Reed cottage-lanais were in full use. The development program continues with future plans for construction of new guest rooms, conference and recreational facilities.

On July 1, 1978, Robert J. Ramsey passed on to a new Heaven, but his spirit remains throughout the Highlands Inn which he lovingly and devotedly developed. Evident as each day passes is the materialization of his dream and plan to create the most beautiful place in the world.

Today, despite inevitable commercial inroads, Highlands Inn, one of the first resort-hotels on the Monterey Peninsula, and one of the West Coast's two leading American Plan luxury operations, maintains the dignity and tradition which characterized its beginnings. Among the Inn's many traditions are the annual "Merry Month" celebrations, beginning with the

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Scottish Christmas tree decoration party, followed by Christmas Eve's "Yule Log" ceremony, and then the Scottish New Year's Eve celebration.

Over the years, the Highlands Inn Wedding Chapel has become one of the most famous and popular wedding sites on the West Coast, where a personalized and dignified marriage ceremony is enhanced by the Chapel's garden setting and tasteful interior design. The numerous requests for outdoor weddings resulted in construction of a beautifully designed white wrought-iron Gazebo commanding a spectacular view within sound of the pounding surf. Wedding receptions are regularly held in the Point Lobos, Fireside, Ritschel and Ramsey Terrace Rooms. Enchanted by the setting of their weddings, couples return year after year to celebrate their anniversaries at Highlands Inn.

Year after year, top level groups hold conferences and seminars at the Highlands Inn, where beauty and nature blend so well into an efficiently organized and successful conference program. Future plans include construction of a new conference room for larger groups desiring this natural setting.

Over the years Highlands Inn has taken pride in the tradition of America's finest culinary arts. Dinner guests may enjoy an epicurean experience, amidst a romantic old-world atmosphere, enhanced by candlelight while overlooking the timeless march of the Pacific surf. The traditional Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day dinners accommodate guests from all parts of California, and Sunday Brunch in the Highlands is a well-known Peninsula tradition.

Today, all roads lead to Highlands Inn, conveniently located on California's scenic coast Highway One, just four miles South of Carmel-by-the-Sea. There are daily flights by major airlines into the Monterey Peninsula Airport, a short distance North of the Inn.

We invite you to rest and refresh in this unique atmosphere, where history and natural beauty have met and survived...

Highlands Inn
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